GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1323
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
PRICES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming rise in the prices of fruits and vegetables in the country recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to control the prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): The movement of monthly Wholesale Prices Index (WPI) for fruits and vegetables from January, 2008 to September, 2008, is given below. This shows that the fruits and vegetables prices have fluctuated during this period. WPI for fruits increased from January 2008 to May 2008 and than declined in June 2008 and subsequently increased. WPI for Vegetables indicates an increasing trend from January 2008 to July 2008 and subsequently stated declining.

Monthly Wholesale Price Index for Vegetables and Fruits from January- September 2008

(Base: 1993-94=100)

2008	January	Febu-rary	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Fruits	250.2	259.1	269.3	265.3	282.0	242.4	244.3	265.0	297.2
Vegetables	18608	181.6	203.0	225.6	223.5	240.5	259.8	241.9	240.0

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Prices of fruits and vegetables fluctuate depending upon the availability and demand. Prices also decrease with the new arrivals in the market.

(c): Some of the measures taken to contain the price rise are regular monitoring of prices, exports and implementation of Market Intervention Scheme by Government of India for horticultural produce through its agencies.